

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 303171

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MARR, US, UK, XO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

FOR CHARGE

1. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING HOW TO HANDLE CLASSIFIED US-UK MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION DESIGNED TO RECORD NEGOTIATING INTENT OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF AD REF US-UK AGREEMENT ON EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA. (PARA 3 STATES THAT USE OF FACILITY IN OTHER THAN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL BE A MATTER FOR JOINT DECISION OF TWO GOVERNMENTS). AS YOU KNOW, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THIS IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE NEGOTIATING RECORD. YOU ARE ALSO AWARE OF STRONG ATTACKS IN SENATE CHARGING ADMINISTRATION WITH CONCEALING SECRET ARRANGEMENTS WITH HMG FOR FINANCING BIOT AND EVACUATING INHABITANTS OF DIEGO GARCIA.

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2. WHEN THIS QUESTION RAISED IN NOVEMBER 7 US-UK TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN, UK SYMPATHIZED WITH CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM BUT INDICATED THEY MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PARLIAMENT IF MEMORANDUM LEAKED IN US AND THAT IF MEMORANDUM IS TO

BE DISCLOSED, THEY WOULD WISH TO MAKE IT A MORE FORMAL DOCUMENT. LATTER, IN TURN WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US

TO LIMIT ITS DISSEMINATION. SINCE THEN, UK EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED SCENARIO FOR BRIEFING KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON THE MEMORANDUM, WITH WHICH WE CONCUR (AND IS REPLAYED IN PARA 3 BELOW).

3. SECRETARY HAD HOPED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH CALLAGHAN DURING RECENT VISIT TO EUROPE TO GAIN HMG UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM WE FACE AND TO CONFIRM MUTUALLY-AGREEABLE SCENARIO FOR HANDLING ISSUE IN CASE IT ARISES. THIS DID NOT OCCUR DUE INSUFFICIENT TIME. THUS WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO REVIEW THE PROBLEM WITH MICHAEL PALISER IN FCO AND CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS:

- WE GREATLY APPRECIATE BRITISH COOPERATION AND EFFORTS IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING AGREEMENT TO SIGNATURE;
- BRITISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE US NEED TO BRIEF KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON MEMORANDUM IS MOST HELPFUL;
- WE WILL TRY TO HOLD THE LINE TO LIMIT BRIEFINGS TO CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES TO MINIMIZE RISK DOCUMENT WILL BECOME PUBLIC;
- IF WE ARE PRESSED TO CIRCULATE DOCUMENT TO OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, OR TO CONDUCT A MORE GENERAL BRIEFING, OR IF A LEAK BECOMES A STRONG LIKELIHOOD, WE WILL CONSULT PROMPTLY WITH BRITISH ON POSSIBLE STEPS, INCLUDING CONVERSION OF MEMORANDUM TO A FORMAL LETTER OR AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES; WHICH WOULD BE A CLASSIFIED SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGREEMENT;
- THE FOREGOING SCENARIO FOR BRIEFING CONGRESS ACCORDS WITH BRITISH RECOMMENDATIONS;
- AS THIS DISCLOSURE PROBLEM WAS THE ONLY ISSUE HOLDING UP OVERALL AGREEMENT, WE ASSUME THAT IF FOREGOING AGREEABLE WE CAN NOW PROCEED WITH SIGNATURE.

4. FYI. WE HAVE ASCERTAINED THROUGH UK EMBASSY (SCOTT)
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THAT BRITISH ARE AMENABLE TO RESOLVING THIS ISSUE BY MEANS OF APPROACH TO PALISER. IF BRITISH INDICATE SATISFACTION WITH FOREGOING POINTS, EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE SIGNATURE OF DIEGO AGREEMENT IN LONDON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
END FYI. KISSINGER

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